Reproduction, Rights, Access, Justice

An anthology zine on reproductive justice

August 2022

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Reproductive rights are under attack and they have been for centuries. Roe v. Wade may have been overturned this summer, but depending on ur identity your reproductive rights have been under attack since the emergence of America as a settler colony a few centuries ago.

Roe v. Wade didn't protect everyone's reproductive rights. Laws (even our constitutional ones) are not applied the same across communities and populations nor are they interpreted/upheld in the same ways

For example, we may have had Roe v Wade but the U.S. maternal mortality rate is ranked amongst the worst in the world notwithstanding its immense wealth and resources because of systemic anti blackness in medical institutions. Post 9/11 maternal health outcomes for Arab women were transformed very negatively due to prejudice and discrimination. Anti-indigenity has plagued the American health system and led to devastating health outcomes since the inception of the country including alarming maternal and infant mortality rates in indigenous communities..

We wanted to make this anthology zine to highlight zines from the Barnard Zine Library that delve deep into abortion rights, history, and bodily autonomy and place them in conversation with current discourses on reproductive justice.

TRIGGER ADVISORY WARNING

Mention of reproductive rights, sterilization, abortion, SA.

reflections/meditations on the overturning of Roe v. Wade

Roe V. Wade was not overturned overnight. Reproductive rights have long been unprotected and inaccessible, and the decision to allow states to ban abortions was decades in the making.

The Democrats had the ability to codify Roe V. Wade during the Obama administration when they had a supermajority in the senate. Although Obama and his administration underscored the importance of abortion protections during his election campaigns and he even maintained the first thing he'd do as President is sign the Freedom of Choice Act, his empty promises were nothing but lipservice.

If you wanna read more about the Democrat's role in the overturning of Roe v. Wade @darkest.hue on instagram has comprehensive post with sources for further reading.

Who is fit for motherhood?
Lauren Jade Martin

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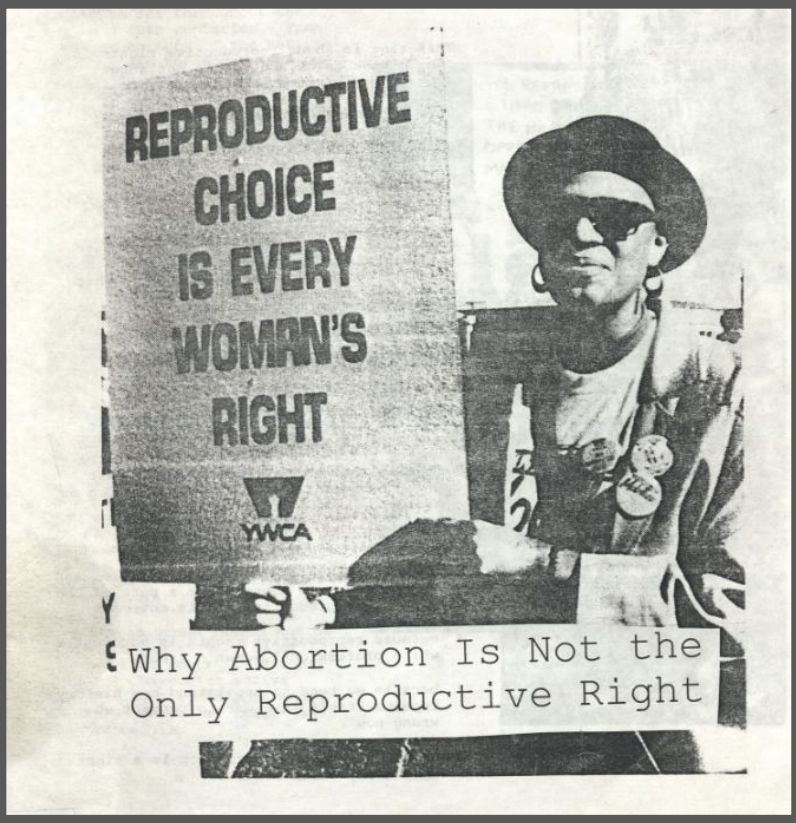
20 September 1999

Who Is Fit For Motherhood?

"More children from the fit, less from the unfit. That is the true meaning of birth control."
-quote popularly, but falsely, attributed to Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger

This zine is about reproductive rights in the United States, but it is not about abortion. Thinking and talking about reproductive rights solely in terms of abortion means that we ignore issues of sterilization abuse, forced birth control, population control and other ways that policymakers have attempted to restrict women's rights to bear children.



Why Abortion Is Not the Only Reproductive Right

Who is fit for motherhood?
Lauren Jade Martin

When you think about reproductive rights what comes to mind?

Why do you think conversations around reproductive rights center or overemphasize abortion?

Tell me about the experience of learning about reproductive rights when using zines as research material.

It is no coincidence that forced sterilization and birth control are abuses that historically have affected poor women, women of color, and immigrant women (which, of course, are not mutually exclusive categories), whereas white affluent women have traditionally struggled to achieve the right not to bear children through access to abortion & contraception.

This zine is about that contradiction, about the attempts to decrease and limit the number of children born to poor women, women of color and immigrant women at the same time that white affluent women have been encouraged to bear as many children as possible.

Who is fit for motherhood?
Lauren Jade Martin

WHY:

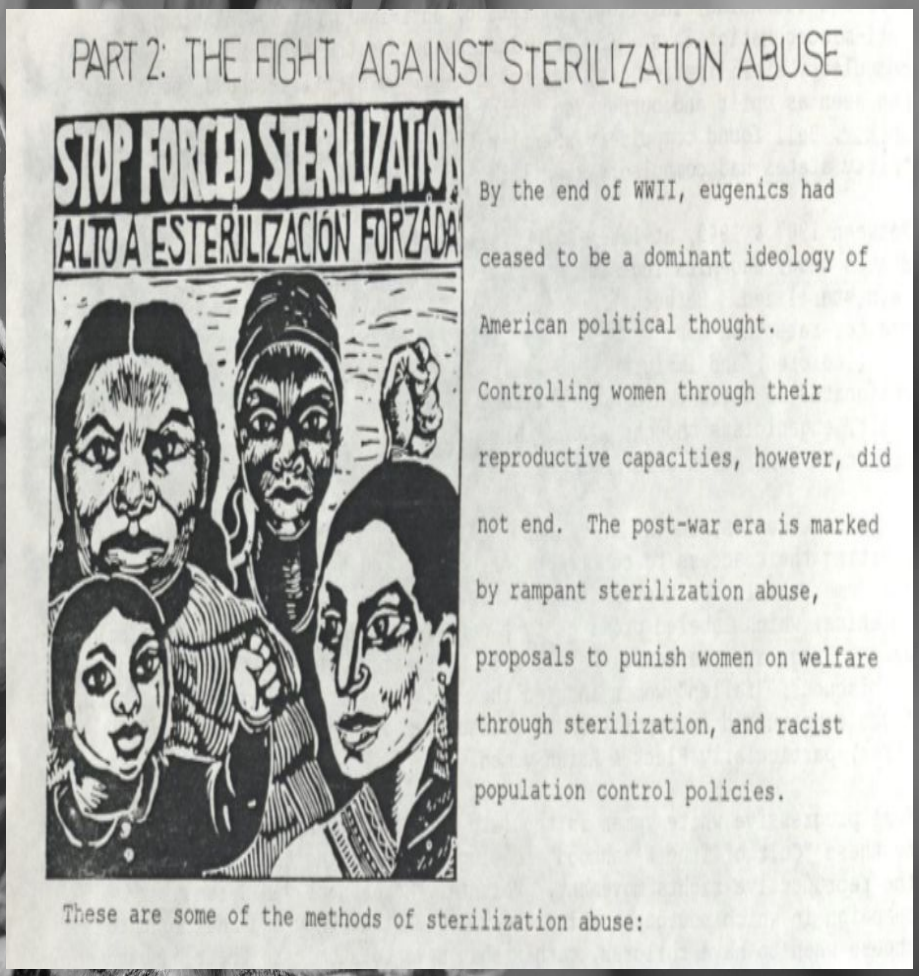
- because people of color, poor people, and immigrants have always been a part of the American reproductive rights movement
- because reproductive rights is not just a white professional women's issue
- because we need to understand how history repeats itself in order to correct what's wrong now
- because reproductive freedom is a right that every women deserves

How does reproductive justice affect marginalized communities relative to white middle class communities?

What do you know about eugenics and its role in the reproductive rights movement?

Who is fit for motherhood?

Lauren Jade Martin



PART 2: THE FIGHT AGAINST STERILIZATION ABUSE

By the end of WWII, eugenics had ceased to be a dominant ideology of American political thought. Controlling women through their reproductive capacities, however, did not end. The post-war era is marked by rampant sterilization abuse, proposals to punish women on welfare through sterilization, and racist population control policies.

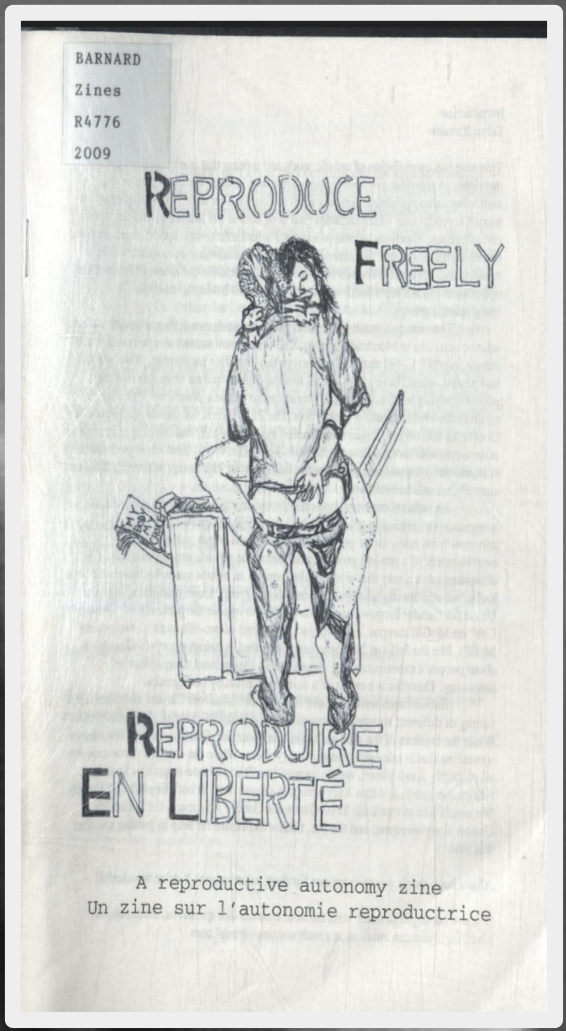
These are some of the methods of sterilization abuse:

Have you heard of sterilization before?

If you haven't, do a quick google search "sterilization abuse." Sterilization is one of the many ways by which peoples reproductive autonomy was controlled by the state. Physicians implemented sterilization in multiple different ways and across many different communities of women and individuals with wombs to limit their ability to reproduce. Utilizing racist science practices, the physician decided which women and individuals with wombs could birth offspring based on social perception of particular communities and personal prejudices.

by @sarahtearex

Articles in this zine were written as a response to Bill C-484 and by members of a pro-choice group on the campus of McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. There are articles with logical answers to the harder questions that pro-life people ask and on the concern that the university is funding anti-choice groups on campus that lobby for illegal abortions. There is a story from a pro-choice feminist who chose not to terminate her pregnancy despite pressure from her boyfriend, an essay on sex-selective abortions in India, and a list of abortion clinic hours and prices in Canada. Articles appear in English and French.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Zines
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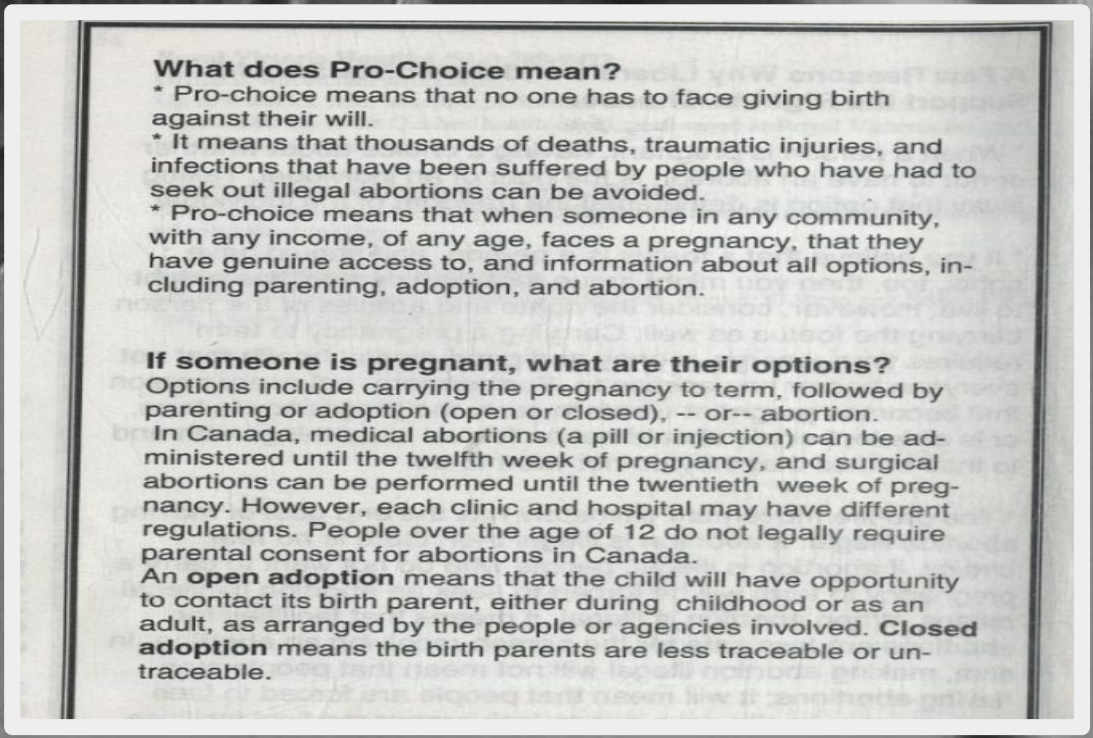
2009

REPRODUCE FREELY

REPRODUIRE EN LIBERTÉ

A reproductive autonomy zine
Un zine sur l'autonomie reproductrice



What does Pro-Choice mean?

* Pro-choice means that no one has to face giving birth against their will.
* It means that thousands of deaths, traumatic injuries, and infections that have been suffered by people who have had to seek out illegal abortions can be avoided.
* Pro-choice means that when someone in any community, with any income, of any age, faces a pregnancy, that they have genuine access to, and information about all options, including parenting, adoption, and abortion.

If someone is pregnant, what are their options?

Options include carrying the pregnancy to term, followed by parenting or adoption (open or closed), -- or-- abortion.

In Canada, medical abortions (a pill or injection) can be administered until the twelfth week of pregnancy, and surgical abortions can be performed until the twentieth week of pregnancy. However, each clinic and hospital may have different regulations. People over the age of 12 do not legally require parental consent for abortions in Canada.

An **open adoption** means that the child will have opportunity to contact its birth parent, either during childhood or as an adult, as arranged by the people or agencies involved. **Closed adoption** means the birth parents are less traceable or untraceable.

by @sarahtearex

Principles of body sovereignty:
1. Every individual owns their body.
2. As owner of their body, each individual has the right to decide:
(a) where it is located; (b) how it is housed or clothed;
(c) how it is nourished; (d) how it is maintained;
(e) how it is trained or disciplined.
3. As owner of their body each individual has the right to decide what is done to and with their body (sex, medical procedures, physical contact.) Every individual owns the products of their body (work, ideas, organs, tissue.)

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Body sovereignty can be an internal and external process. The way we see ourselves and move our bodies through space is not a process we mediate on our own. The way power moves across our bodies influences the way we see ourselves and the way we perform the movements that express our sexuality and self.

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INDIAN WOMEN AND ABORTIONS

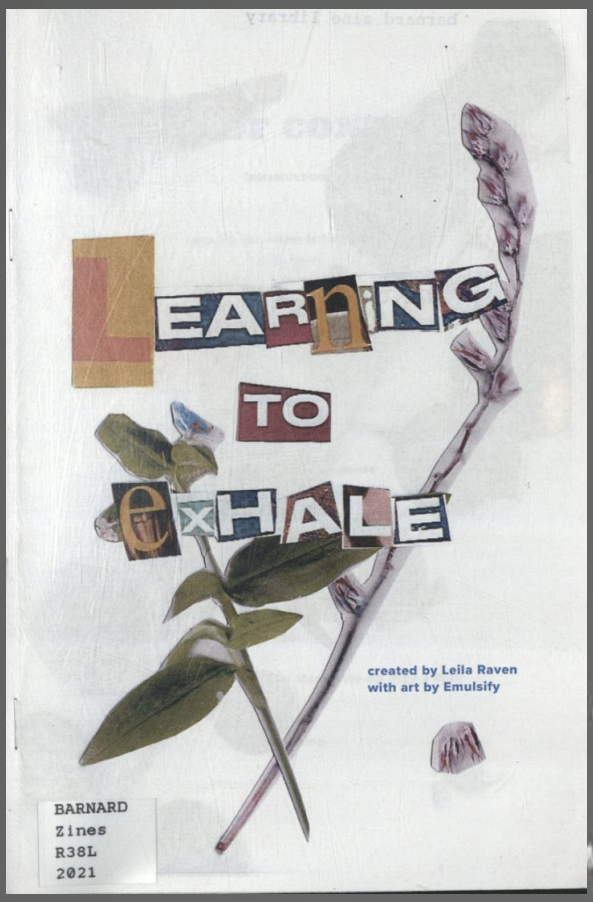
SHE IS THE GODDESS WHO FIGHTS WITH DEVILS,
SHE IS THE MOTHER WHO TENDERS HER CHILD WITH CARE AND LOVE,
SHE IS THE SISTER WHO LOVES HER BROTHER,
SHE IS THE DAUGHTER WHO IS OBEDIENT AND RESCUES FAMILY OWNER,
SHE IS THE ONE WHO HAS TO DIE IN THE WOMB
JUST BECAUSE SHE IS AN INDIAN GIRL!

Have you heard of body sovereignty as a concept before?

What's your relationship to your body?

Do you feel in control of your body?

Learning to Exhale by Leila Raven



CW: Rape, SA

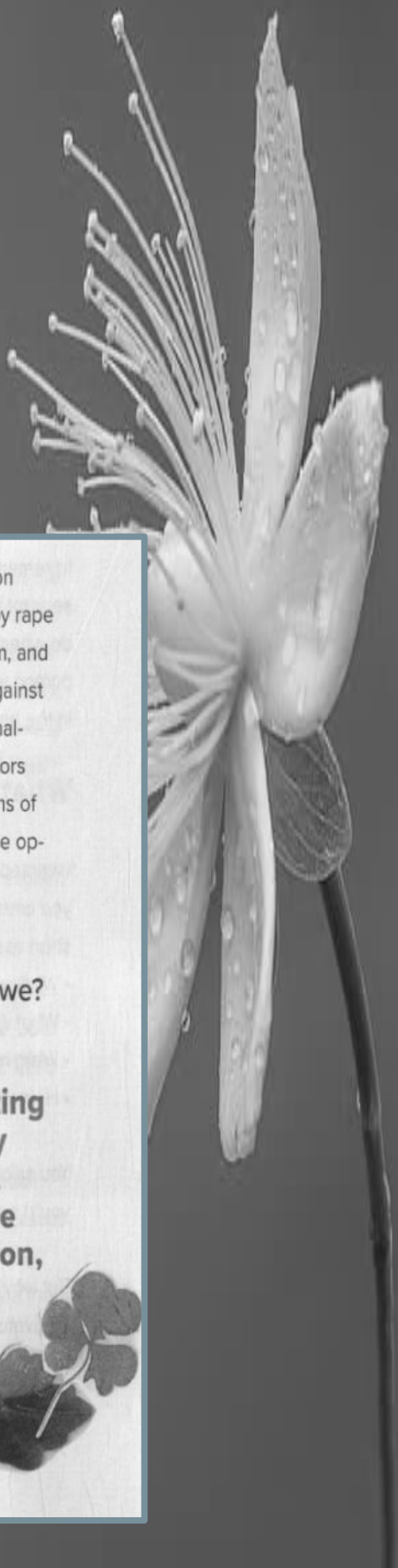
In Learning to Exhale, Leila Raven foregrounds the barriers to accountability for gender-based violence in organizing spaces. With a focus on rape allegations within the Commune Magazine Collective, Raven utilizes personal experiences and thoughts to reflect on the roles of activists and organizers alike in building safer organizing spaces. This zine is a resource for survivors who reject carceral systems and who seek safety and healing from abuse in organizing spaces. Raven emphasizes the pervasive nature of gender-based violence in organizing spaces with a strong emphasis on centering survivor demands and transformative justice. Tweets from the #NoPlatformFor Rapists campaign, flower illustrations, and magazine cutout letters are interspersed throughout, with royal blue subheadings separating chapters and entries; the front cover title is written out in collaged magazine cutout letters as well.

Learning to Exhale by Leila Raven

Read the excerpt once or twice.

Reflect on the questions in boldface at the end of the scan. You can do this on paper or in your mind.

After you answer the questions consider what you have the power to reclaim.



None of us are immune to the ways that systems of oppression manifest in our everyday lives. We all breathe in air polluted by rape culture, white supremacy, cis heteropatriachy, ableism, ageism, and capitalism. If we don't consciously, and constantly, struggle against the messages of the dominant culture, we are bound to internalize oppression. People engage in abusive, oppressive behaviors because it benefits them in the short term to align with systems of power. The consequences fall not on the oppressor, but on the oppressed.

The question isn't: why do people abuse & oppress others? The question is: Why **don't** we?

What can we learn about making a revolution from the practice of rejecting oppressive behaviors in our everyday lives? How do we wake up every day, breathe in air polluted by rape culture and interlocking systems of oppression, and exhale in a way that heals?

RESOURCES

Zines

Who is fit for motherhood? By Lauren Jade Martin
laurenjademartin@gmail.com

Learning to exhale by Leila Raven
@bubblybutfierce on instagram

Reproduce freely : a reproductive autonomy zine. Reproduire en liberte : un zine sur l'autonomie reproductrice

By sarahtearex

@sarahtearex on instagram

More BZL zines about reproductive rights for further reading

Body is a Boundary Concepty by Cybernetics library

@cyberneticslibrary on instagram

D.I.Y. Doula self-care for before, during and after your abortion - a zine by the doula project
@doulaproject on instagram

Reproductive autonomy: crossing the species border
helenwriter@gmail.com

Articles/Instagram links

Islamophobia and Public Health in the United States by Goleen Samari

Protecting Your Birth: A Guide for Black Mothers

How racism can impact your pre- and post natal - and advice for speaking to your ObGyn about it.

How the Democrats could have saved Roe and why they didn't. . .

@darkest.hue on instagram